



NOTICE OF 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
Bio Tech Site
151 Old Wire Road, West Columbia, South Carolina

DHEC (the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control) is accepting public comments on a potential Voluntary Cleanup Contract until December 22, 2011.

The Voluntary Cleanup Contract, 11-6057-NRP, will affect approximately 256 acres identified by Lexington County tax map number 008096-02-002. A company known as HFL, LLC (HFL) wants to buy the property from its current owners. This Voluntary Cleanup Contract will be between DHEC and HFL.

The property had been developed for agricultural use and is still being used for growing crops. Land and Lab Technology (later Bio Tech) purchased the property in 1990 and constructed a wastewater treatment facility. The majority of the property consists of a spray field for the deposition of wastewater from the wastewater treatment plant. The wastewater treatment plant has been vacant since December 2010. There are four buildings in addition to the wastewater treatment plant. General location uses around the property include forested property to the north, Old State Road to the east, forested property to the south, and 12th Street Extension to the west.

HFL intends to acquire the property and lease the buildings used by Bio Tech. The wastewater treatment plant will be dismantled. If this Voluntary Cleanup Contract is implemented, DHEC will allow HFL to acquire the property as a "Brownfields Site" because of the potential for environmental pollution. HFL did not create the pollution, but will take steps to control it to keep the property safe for re-use.

DHEC will not hold HFL responsible for the pre-existing pollution in exchange for doing work under the Voluntary Cleanup Contract. Under State law, HFL will not be responsible if anyone is affected by the contamination. Entering into this contract does not reduce the responsibility of any former owners or operators of the site.

Under the proposed contract, HFL will test soil, surface water and groundwater from the property. If significant contamination is found, HFL will be required to take additional steps to protect human health and the environment.

DHEC uses Voluntary Cleanup Contracts to keep Brownfield sites in productive reuse. The proposed contract is available at http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/public_notice.asp. Printed copies may be obtained from the DHEC Freedom of Information Office at (803) 898-3882.

Citizens may provide written, email, or telephone comments on the proposed contract until December 22, 2011. Questions or comments may be directed to Mark Berenbrok, Project Manager, email berenbm@dhc.sc.gov, telephone (803) 896-6848 or Alex Fulmer, email FulmerWA@dhc.sc.gov or TOLL-FREE telephone (866) 576-3432. Written comments should be directed to either individual at SCDHEC, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201.